Al-Islam.org
Ahlul Bayt Digital Islamic Library Project
Published on *Al-Islam.org* (https://www.al-islam.org)



# Virtues And Vices

**Virtues and vices-الفضائل والرَّذائِل**

1. Compel yourself to [acquire] virtues, for indeed you have a natural propensity for vices.

أكْرِهْ نَفْسَكَ عَلَى الفَضائِلِ، فَإنَّ الرَّذائِلَ أنْتَ مَطْبُوعٌ عَلَيْها1 ـ

2. Ascending towards virtues is a hardship that saves.

اَلإرْتِقاءُ إلَى الفَضائِلِ صَعْبٌ مُنْجٍ2 ـ

3. Your knowledge conveys your merit and your generosity tells of your kindness.

يُنْبِئُ عَنْ فَضْلِكَ عِلْمُكَ وعَنْ إفْضالِكَ بَذْلُكَ3 ـ

4. When you keep away from the forbidden, refrain from that which you are unsure about, fulfil that which is obligatory and perform the acts that are recommended, then you have perfected the virtues of faith.

إذَا اتَّقَيْتَ المُحَرماتِ، وتَوَرَّعْتَ عَنِ الشُّبَهاتِ وأدَّيْتَ المَفْرُوضاتِ، وَتَنَفَّلْتَ بِالنَّوافِلِ فَقَدْ أكْمَلْتَ فِي الدِّينِ4 ـ اَلفَضائِلَ.

5. The peak of [all] merits is controlling anger and eradicating lustful desires.

رَأْسُ الفَضائِلِ مُلْكُ الغَضَبِ وإماتَةُ الشَّهْوَةِ5 ـ

6. During successive hardships the virtues of a person become manifest.

6عِنْدَ تَعاقُبِ الشَّدائِدِ تَظْهَرُ فَضائِلُ الإنْسانِ ..

7. The symbol of a person’s merit is his intelligence and good character.

7عُنْوانُ فَضيلَةِ المَرْءِ عَقْلُهُ، وحُسْنُ خُلْقِهِ ..

8. The highest of all merits is intelligence.

8غايَةُ الفَضائِلِ العَقْلُ ..

9. The highest of all merits is knowledge.

9غايَةُ الفَضائِلِ العِلْمُ ..

10. The merit of a man is known from his speech.

10فَضْلُ الرَّجُلِ يُعْرَفُ مِنْ قَوْلِهِ ..

11. Merit is [acquired] by perfection [of character] and noble deeds, not through excessive wealth and eminent feats.

11اَلفَضِيلَةُ بِحُسْنِ الكَمالِ، وَمَكارِمِ الأفْعالِ، لابِكَثْرَةِ المالِ وجَلالَةِ الأعْمالِ ..

12. Virtue is overcoming [one’s bad] habit.

12اَلفَضيلَةُ غَلَبَةُ العادَةِ ..

13. The pride of a man is by his merit, not because of his origin [and lineage].

13فَخْرُ المَرْءِ بِفَضْلِهِ لابِأصْلِهِ ..

14. The merit of a person is [lies in] doing good to others.

14فَضيلَةُ الإنْسانِ بَذْلُ الإحْسانِ ..

15. He who overcomes his anger and controls the impulses of his lustful desires has acquired virtue.

15فازَ بِالفَضيلَةِ مَنْ غَلَبَ غَضَبَهُ، وَمَلَكَ نَوازِعَ شَهْوَتِهِ ..

16. It suffices as a merit for a man to humble himself.

16كَفى بِالمَرْءِ فَضيلَةً أنْ يُنَقِّصَ نَفْسَهُ ..

17. The perfection of virtues is [in] honourable qualities.

17كَمالُ الفَضائِلِ شَرَفُ الخَلائِقِ ..

18. The human being has two merits: intellect and speech; he derives benefit through his intellect and benefits others by his speech.

18لِلإنْسانِ فَضيلَتانِ: عَقْلٌ، ومَنْطِقٌ، فَبِالعَقْلِ يَسْتَفيدُ، وبِالمَنْطِقِ يُفيدُ ..

19. Lineage is not defined by the fathers and mothers, rather [it is defined] by the praiseworthy merits.

19لَيْسَتِ الأنْسابُ بِالآباءِ والأُمَّهاتِ لكِنَّها بِالفَضائِلِ المَحْمُوداتِ ..

20. One whose merits are few, his means are weak.

20مَنْ قَلَّتْ فَضائِلُهُ ضَعُفَتْ وَسائِلُهُ ..

21. From the best of merits is accepting the excuse of the wrongdoer.

21مِنْ أحْسَنِ الفَضْلِ قَبُولُ عُذْرِالجاني ..

22. It is from the merit of a man not to put the one whom he has been forbearing with under obligation.

22مِنْ فَضْلِ الرَّجُلِ أنْ لا يَمُنَّ بِمَا احْتَمَلَهُ حِلْمُهُ ..

23. Performing good deeds and spreading goodness are from the greatest virtues.

23 مِنْ أفْضَلِ الفَضائِلِ اِصْطِناعُ الصَّنايِعِ، وَبَثُّ المَعْرُوفِ ..

24. Through the gaining of merits the enemy is subdued.

24 بِاكْتِسابِ الفَضائِلِ يُكْبَتُ المُعادي ..

25. The consolidation of merits is in doing good to the freeman and being kind to the people of virtue.

25 جِماعُ الفَضْلِ فِي اصْطِناعِ الحُرِّ، والإحْسانِ إلى أهْلِ الخَيْرِ ..

26. Safeguarding the tongue and doing good to others are from the best merits of a human being.

26 حِفْظُ اللِّسانِ وبَذْلُ الإحْسانِ مِنْ أفْضَلِ فَضائِلِ الإنْسانِ ..

27. Become distinguished by virtues and renounce vices.

27 كُنْ مُتَّصِفاً بِالفَضائِلِ، مُتَبَرِّءً مِنَ الرَّذائِلِ ..

28. The best of virtues is granting the wishes and fulfilling the needs of the seeker and being moderate in what one seeks.

28 أفْضَلُ الفَضائِلِ بَذْلُ الرَّغائِبِ، وإسْعافُ الطَّالِبِ والإجْمالُ فِي المَطالِبِ ..

29. The best of virtues is establishing ties with the one who has distanced himself, being cordial with the one who is averse, and holding the hand of the one who stumbles.

29 أفْضَلُ الفَضائِلِ صِلَةُ الهاجِرِ، وإيناسُ النّافِرِ، والأخْذُ بِيَدِ العاثِرِ ..

30. Verily only the virtuous know the merit of the people of virtue.

30 إنَّما يَعْرِفُ الفَضْلَ لأهْلِ الفَضْلِ أُولُوا الفَضْلِ ..

31. Your virtue is proven by your action and your munificence by your open-handedness.

31 يُسْتَدَلُّ عَلى فَضْلِكَ بِعَمَلِكَ، وَعَلى كَرَمِكَ بِبَذْلِكَ ..

---

**Source URL:**
https://www.al-islam.org/ghurar-al-hikam-wa-durar-al-kalim-exalted-aphorisms-and-pearls-speech/virtues-and-vices#comment-0